

Coaxial Friction Clutch Actuator System

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims priority from PCT/US03/38984 filed December 9, 2003,
which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/431,853 filed
December 9, 2002, from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/436,158 filed
December 23, 2002 and from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/444,789 filed
February 4, 2003.

10 TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to actuator systems, and more specifically to actuator systems
to actuate friction clutches.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

15 Electronically controlled actuator systems are presently used in vehicles to control
starting clutches. These actuator systems require powerful motors despite the incorporation
of spring means intended to counterbalance the reaction force applied to the release bearing
by the control fingers of the clutch. These actuator systems are bulky and need to be
mounted on the outside of the clutch housing, and are, therefore, expensive to manufacture.

20 The present invention is directed to overcome one or more of the problems set forth
above.